Old age Pension in Madhya Pradesh

675. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Miinster of WELFARE be pleased to state;

(a) the number of oldiinfirm persons in receipt of old age/infirmity pesion in the State of Madhya Pradesh at present;

(b) whether it is a fact that old age people in the State put in the category of dependents are being denied the benefit of pension by the authorities;

(c) if so, what are the details and reasons therefor; and

(d) what action Government pro pose to take to see that old age pension is not denied to any of the old person?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) to (d): Information is being collected from the State Government.

Supply of Books and Stationery Free of Cost to ST Students in M. P.

676. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have sanctioned a plan to provide books and stationery free of cost to students of Scheduled Tribes studying in Government colleges in the State of Madhya Pradesh:

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to extend this facility to the stndents of Scheduled Castes in the state; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) to (d): The Government of Madhya Pradesh has been requested to send the requisite information which on its receipt, will be laid on the Table of the House.

Free of Cost Hostel facilities to SC/ST

677. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to provide more hostel facilities to the post matriculation students belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the State of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to provide these facilities free of cost to these students; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SRRI SITARAM KESRI); (a); No such specific decision has been taken in respect of M.P.

(b): Question does not arise.

(c) However the Government is providing facilities to the SC/ST stu dents in the existing hostels free of cost.

(d) Question does not arise.

Diversion of SC/ST Fund by State Governments

678. SHRI RADHAKISHAN MALA VIYA). Will the Minister of WEL FARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in "The Pioneer" New Delhi dated the 2nd January, 1993 captioned 'Frivolous Diversion of SC1ST Funds by State Governments';

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken to stop the diversion of funds: and

(c) the names of the States which have diverted the S.C., S.T. Welfare funds?